

SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER WORKING HARD TO STRENGTHEN NEVADA'S ECONOMY



During his time in Washington, Senator Reid has fought tirelessly to promote economic development in Nevada. Senator Reid has directed millions to the state in Recovery Act funds, promoted our state's travel industry, ensured the completion of CityCenter, and provided assistance to distressed homeowners and Nevadans who are out of work. These efforts have not only saved thousands of jobs, but will spur thousands more. As the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Reid continues to support the short-term relief that Nevada's families need, as well as the long-term investments that ensure our state's economic revitalization.

Senator Reid Has a Long Record of Bringing Jobs to Nevada.

Senator Reid has a long record of creating jobs and stimulating and diversifying Nevada's economy. Most recently, Senator Reid has boosted the Nevada tourism industry, helped Nevada recover from the economic downturn, saved the CityCenter project, and championed the effort to make Nevada the nation's clean energy leader.

Stimulated Nevada's Tourism Industry Hundreds of thousands of Nevadans depend on tourism for their employment, and the travel industry is a major revenue generator for our state. Understanding how crucial this industry is to Nevada and our Nation, Senator Reid shepherded passage of the Travel Promotion Act. This important legislation follows the model of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authorityand establishes a publicprivate partnership to promote exciting destinations like Las Vegas, Reno and Lake Tahoe. It will bring more visitors to our country, and create more jobs in the travel, tourism and service industries. Because of Senator Reid's leadership in the Senate and collaboration with his colleagues in the House of Representatives, the *Travel Promotion Act* passed both chambers and is now law. The U.S. Travel Association estimates that the Travel Promotion Act could create 40,000 American jobs and the Congressional Budget Office

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S ECONOMY RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Has a Long Record of Bringing Jobs to Nevada
- ★ Senator Reid Cut Taxes for One Million Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes
- ★ Senator Reid Has Fought to Cut Taxes For and Increase Capital to Small Businesses
- ★ Senator Reid Stands by Nevada's Workforce
- ★ Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Make Our Nation More Competitive in the Global Market

estimated it would reduce the deficit by \$425 million over the next decade. [S. 1023, Senate Vote 272, 9/9/09, P.L. 111-145; U.S. Travel Association, Get America's Economy Back on Track; Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate, S. 1023; H.R. 1299, Senate Vote 28, 2/25/10, P.L. 111-145]

• *Helped Nevada Weather the Economic Storm* With Nevada communities facing high unemployment and state and local budget shortfalls, Senator Reid worked hard to ensure that the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act) invested in our local infrastructure.

Senator Reid helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars to keep our schools open, keep our police on the streets, help grow small businesses, and support job creating roads projects. So far, the Recovery Act has created over 20,000 jobs in Nevada. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

- *Education* Nevada teachers, school staff, and education programs have already felt the impact of \$490 million in Recovery Act funding. This includes \$289 million in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) to help keep teachers in the classroom.*
- *Transportation* Nevada has obligated \$242 million in Recovery Act funds that have already jumpstarted nearly 80 transportation construction projects.*
- Public Safety Nevada received over \$38 million for law enforcement and public safety programs, helping to keep cops on the streets, protect victims of crime, and improve communication between jurisdictions.*
- *Small Businesses* 308 small business loans backed by the Recovery Act have been given to Nevada's business community supporting more than \$144 million in small business lending.*
 - *Nevada is getting new awards every day. These are current funding and job estimates as of March 25, 2010.
- *Saved CityCenter* When it looked like the City Center construction project was on the verge of collapse, Senator Reid took the lead and fought to keep the lines of credit open so that the project could continue. Thanks in part to Senator Reid's actions, over 20,000 workers helped construct this massive project, and CityCenter now provides permanent jobs to over 12,000 Nevadans. This "city within a city" has now set the standard for responsible, environmentally conscious development.
- *Making Nevada the Nation's Clean Energy Leader* Senator Reid is also fighting to make Nevada the nation's clean energy leader. From introducing the *Clean Renewable Energy and Economic Development Act* of 2009 to help develop a transmission super highway for renewables, to hosting two National Clean Energy Summits in Las Vegas, Senator Reid has demonstrated his commitment to bringing clean energy technology and jobs to Nevada. The Clean Energy Summits Senator Reid hosted in Nevada helped develop a dialogue among the nation's most distinguished leaders in clean energy policy about how to build the infrastructure and create the jobs needed to achieve energy security. Once again, Senator Reid will shine a spotlight on Nevada as the clean energy leader by hosting another summit in the summer of 2010. [S. 539, Introduced 5/3/09]

Senator Reid Cut Taxes for One Million Nevadans. Senator Reid has supported tax relief to help stimulate Nevada's economy during the economic downturn. He has also provided tax incentives for homebuyers and homeowners, extended the sales tax deduction, and extended the relief from the marriage penalty tax.

• Supported Tax Relief During the Economic Downturn The Recovery Act has already lowered 95 percent of Nevada workers' tax bills by as much as \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples through the Making Work Pay tax credit. This credit increased the take home pay for 120 million American households for 2009 and 2010. The Recovery Act also improved the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits and raised the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption to \$46,700 for individuals and \$70,950 for joint filters. To help make college affordable, the Recovery Act created the American Opportunity Tax Credit providing up to \$2,500 per year to help families

- afford college. The credit is available for a full four years of postsecondary education. Additionally, the new credit is available to help cover expenses for textbooks. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- *Provided Tax Incentives for Homebuyers* In an effort to spur investment in the housing market and support home values, Senator Reid led efforts to create a tax incentive for first-time homebuyers. Initially, first-time homebuyers were given a tax credit of up to \$7,500 for residences purchased between April 9, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Senator Reid spearheaded efforts to improve the tax credit by eliminating the requirement that the credit be repaid by the homebuyer, increasing the credit to \$8,000, extending the credit to homes purchased through April 30, 2010, increasing the income eligibility thresholds for qualifying for the credit, and providing a \$6,500 credit for existing homeowners purchasing a new home. [H.R. 3221, Senate Vote 186, 7/26/2008, P.L. 110-289; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/4/09, P.L. 111-92]
- *Eliminated the Tax Penalty for Mortgage Restructuring* The housing crisis has been especially hard on Nevada. In response, Senator Reid led efforts to eliminate the income tax penalty for homeowners who are successful in negotiating a lower mortgage with their lender. [H.R. 3648, Senate Vote 948, 10/4/10, P.L. 110-142]
- *Made the Tax Code Fairer for Nevada Taxpayers*. Senator Reid fought in 2004 to reinstate the deduction for state and local sales taxes as a matter of fairness for states like Nevada that choose not to impose an income tax. The deduction was reinstated on a temporary basis and through the efforts of Senator Reid has been extended for each year thereafter. [H.R. 4520, Senate Vote 211, 10/11/04, P.L. 108-357; H.R. 6111, Senate Vote 279, 12/09/06, P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/1/08, P.L. 110-343]
- *Advocated for Marriage Penalty Relief* Many families are affected by the marriage penalty. In certain situations, married couples pay higher taxes than they would if they were two individuals filing separately. This "marriage penalty" was substantially reduced for most taxpayers in 2001, but that relief expires at the end of 2010. The budget passed by the 111th Congress extends marriage penalty relief permanently. [S.Con.Res. 13, Senate Vote 173, 4/29/09]
- *Provided Tax Relief to Make Homeownership More Affordable* Senator Reid helped make homeownership more affordable for Nevada families by providing a new deduction for property taxes paid by those homeowners who otherwise do not itemize their deductions on their federal income tax returns. [H.R. 3221, Senate Vote 186, 7/26/08, P.L. 110-289]

Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes. Nevada remains among the states hardest hit by the housing downturn and continues to lead the nation among foreclosure rates, which is why Senator Reid made foreclosure prevention a priority and has worked hard to keep this problem from growing. Senator Reid has called on the Obama Administration to establish more aggressive housing programs, helped create incentives for investment in the housing market, provided billions of dollars in resources to housing counselors and local communities to help keep families in homes and stabilize neighborhoods, and is working hard to reform the financial services industry to prevent fraud and unnecessary foreclosure in the future.

• Senator Reid Demands Real Help for Nevada Hearing firsthand many complaints from Nevadans about Bank of America's responsiveness to struggling homeowners, Senator Reid urged the CEO of Bank of America to allocate more resources to Nevada. In response, Bank of America agreed to set up a 1-800 hotline exclusively for Nevada homeowners who have a mortgage with Bank of America, open three homeownership resource centers in Henderson, Las Vegas, and Reno for customers struggling with their mortgage, and devote a team of Bank of America loan specialists to work alongside Senator Reid's staff on housing casework.

- Fought for Foreclosure Mitigation Initiatives to Help Distressed Homeowners Senator Reid urged the Obama Administration to provide additional resources to states hardest hit by the housing crisis, which resulted in the creation of the Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets ("HFA Hardest Hit Fund"). In the first round of the program, the Administration allocated \$1.5 billion to five states, including Nevada, where the housing prices have fallen more than 20%. The Nevada Housing Division will receive \$102.8 million to design and fund programs to assist unemployed home owners as well as borrowers who owe more than their home is now worth. [Letter to Secretaries Geithner and Donovan dated 12/18/2009]
- *Helped Homeowners Facing Negative Equity* The Hope for Homeowners (H4H) Program is the first federal initiative addressing the negative equity that so many Nevadans face and several experts consider a driving force behind foreclosures. In 2009, Senator Reid supported broadening the H4H Program and providing legal safe harbor for all servicers to modify loans without facing frivolous lawsuits in the *Helping Families Save Their Homes Act*. [H.R. 3221, Senate Vote 186, 7/26/2008, P.L. 110-289; S. 896, Senate Vote 271, 5/19/09, P.L. 111-22]
- *Fought for Homeowners in Bankruptcy* To help distressed homeowners that turn to bankruptcy as a last resort, Senator Reid voted to include provisions in important housing legislation that would permit bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences. [Senate Vote 88, S.Amdt.4388, 4/3/08; Senate Vote 174, S.Amdt.1014, 4/30/09]
- **Stood Up for Main Street** When the Bush Administration requested that Congress pass the *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act* to bailout Wall Street, Senator Reid fought to include foreclosure relief provisions to help homeowners on Main Street. These provisions paved the way for the Obama Administration to initiate the Making Home Affordable Program and the HFA Hardest Hit Fund. [S.Amdt.5685, Senate Vote 212, 10/1/08; H.R.1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/1/08, P.L. 110-343]
- Provided Aid to Homeowners Seeking Short Sales Senator Reid also garnered support to provide homeowners seeking a short-sale resolution a tax income exemption for mortgage debt forgiveness discharged between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2012. [H.R. 3648, Unanimous Consent, 12/14/2007, P.L. 110-142; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/1/08, P.L. 110-343]
- Repeatedly Increased Funding for Housing Counseling Services In an effort to help distressed homeowners to better withstand the housing crisis, Senator Reid has fought to increase funding to housing counseling agencies. In 2008, Senator Reid voted in support of increasing housing counseling resources by \$100 million. In 2009, Senator Reid helped direct \$50 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program, and \$20 million for other additional resources and counseling agencies. He insisted that up to \$5 million of the latter sum be used for advertisements that will bring greater awareness to the mortgage crisis in non-English speaking communities, and \$5 million be used for additional personnel in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. [S.Amdt. 4397, Senate Vote 89, 4/3/08; S. 896, Senate Vote 185, 5/6/2009, P.L. 111-022]
- Fought for Neighborhood Stabilization Funds Senator Reid urged HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to allocate additional Neighborhood Stabilization resources to southern Nevada after the community failed to secure a second round of funds. This effort resulted in a commitment of up to \$1.3 million in emergency technical assistance to Las Vegas and Clark County in order to ensure the effectiveness of

their neighborhood stabilization programs. Senator Reid also worked with Secretary Donovan to get additional Neighborhood Stabilization funds redirected from other locations to Nevada, resulting in a commitment of an additional \$60 million in needed resources. [Letter to Secretary Donovan, 1/14/2010]

• Committed to Reforming the Financial Services Industry to Prevent Fraud and Unnecessary Foreclosures In an effort to strengthen the federal criminal laws to prosecute those involved in the financial and mortgage fraud that contributed to the global financial crisis, Senator Reid shepherded passage of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. He also increased resources for law enforcement personnel to combat these crimes. To help understand the causes of the financial crisis and prevent it from occurring again in the future, Senator Reid supported establishing the Financial Markets Commission to examine all causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the U.S. [S. 386, Senate Vote 171, 4/28/0, P.L. 111-21; Senate Vote 161, S.Amdt. 995, 4/22/09]

Senator Reid Has Fought to Cut Taxes For and Increase Capital to Small Businesses. Throughout his career, Senator Reid has advocated for legislation to cut taxes for small businesses. Senator Reid championed the Recovery Act which contained a number of provisions to ease the tax burden on small businesses, expanded the net operating loss carryback, and provide tax relief for the cancellation of indebtedness. He also supported exempting small businesses from Social Security payroll taxes when they hire unemployed workers, extending favorable cost recovery rules under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code, and providing tax incentives to help small businesses afford health care for their employees. Senator Reid has also supported numerous initiatives to help increase access to capital for small businesse.

- Senator Reid Championed the Recovery Act Which Provided a Number of Tax Breaks for Small Businesses. The Recovery Act promotes capital investment in small businesses by allowing investors to exclude 75% of any gain they realize on the sale of eligible small business stock acquired between February 18, 2009 and December 31, 2010. The law also allowed small businesses to immediately write-off the cost of certain capital expenditures made in 2009 instead of deducting these costs over several years. It provided estimated tax relief for small business owners with less than \$500,000 of adjusted gross income, reduced the holding period from ten to seven years for corporate tax relief on the sale of appreciated assets in 2009 and 2010 by S corporation that were previously organized as C corporations, and permited employers to claim a tax credit for unemployed veterans and disconnected youth in 2009 and 2010. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- Senator Reid Expanded the Net Operating Loss Carryback. The Recovery Act provided tax relief to small businesses by allowing those with up to \$15 million in gross receipts to use losses incurred in 2008 to recover federal income taxes paid in the five previous years. This provision helped small businesses stay in business and keep their employees on the job by providing access to cash. Senator Reid has also supported the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 which expanded the Net Operating Loss Carryback to apply to firms of all sizes and to include losses incurred in 2008 and/or 2009. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/4/09, P.L. 111-092]
- Senator Reid Advocated for Cancellation of Indebtedness. Businesses needing to restructure their debts in order to survive the economic downturn found themselves facing a significant tax penalty as a result of that process. As part of the Recovery Act, Senator Reid was instrumental in pushing through relief from this tax penalty, helping Nevada companies to improve their balance sheets and save thousands of jobs. Harrah's Senior Vice President, Jan Jones, has said, "Aside from the money

Nevada received from the stimulus, the cancellation of indebtedness provision and Travel Promotion Act were important additions that helped the gaming industry." She credited Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid with both. The cancellation of indebtedness provision allows companies to restructure their debt and delays tax payments tied to capital gains. "For Harrah's Entertainment, that allowed us to protect 31,000 jobs in Nevada alone. This piece of legislation allowed Harrah's work to restructure to make sure we kept our employees employed," said Jones, a former Las Vegas mayor and current member of the governor's Spending and Government Efficiency Commission. Station Casinos Chief Development Officer Scott Neilson said his company hasn't been able to take part in the debt cancellation provision since Station is currently in bankruptcy proceedings, but said the legislation will allow the company increased flexibility as it restructures. "Even though a lot of the companies in the Nevada economy trying to work through this [bankruptcy] process right now might not have been able to take advantage of this provision yet, I think that they will and I think you'll see a lot of companies benefit greatly," he said." [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005; Las Vegas Sun, 10/22/09; H.R. 1299, Senate Vote 28, 2/25/10, P.L. 111-145]

- Senator Reid Supported Exemption from Social Security Payroll Taxes. To help small businesses create jobs, Senator Reid supported giving businesses an exemption from Social Security payroll taxes in 2010 for every new worker who has been unemployed for at least 60 days. To encourage employers to retain these employees, the law provides an additional \$1,000 income tax credit for every new employee retained for 52 weeks. [H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 23, 2/22/10, P.L. 111-147; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 25, 2/24/10, P.L. 111-147]
- Senator Reid Extended Favorable Cost Recovery Rules Under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). This will help small businesses grow by lowering their taxes when they make investments. "Expensing" under Section 179 allows small businesses to reduce their taxes by deducting up to \$250,000 of the cost of investments made in 2010, rather than waiting to recover the costs through depreciation over a number of years. [H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 23, 2/22/10, P.L. 111-147; H.R. 2847, Senate Vote 25, 2/24/10, P.L. 111-147]
- Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Help Small Businesses Provide Health Insurance Benefits to Their Employees. In 2000, Senator Reid supported a tax credit to small businesses with up to 25 employees for providing health insurance to low-income workers with an income between \$5,000 and \$16,000. Recently, in an effort to help small businesses owners combat rising health care costs, Senator Reid fought hard to pass comprehensive health care reform that will lower costs and increase choices for employers. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act immediately lowers the cost of health insurance for small businesses with up to 25 employees and with average annual wages less than \$50,000 by providing a tax credit for the cost of health care they provide to their employees. [S.Amdt. 3852, Senate Vote 205, 7/17/00; H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/2009, P.L. 111-148]
- Senator Reid Supported Initiatives that Increase Access to Capital for Small Businesses. Senator Reid shepherded passage of the Recovery Act, which strengthened the ability of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide capital and help to small businesses, and has followed up that effort by extending further the loan program provisions. The Recovery Act raised the 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program from a 70% guarantee to a 90% guarantee and appropriated \$375 million for the program, as well as allowing the SBA to guarantee loans under the 504/CDC Loan Guarantee Program if the 504/CDC Lender keeps 5% with a \$3 billion guarantee limit. It also established the American Recovery Capital (ARC) Loan Program, which provides interest-free, fee-free loans up to \$35,000 or 6 months of

loan repayment, with a 100% SBA guarantee that small businesses can repay over the five years starting after one year, and allocates \$24 million for technical assistance and \$20 million for lender oversight in the microloans program. In addition, the Recovery Act permanently raises the surety bond limit from \$2 million to \$5 million and raises the private capital leverage amount for Small Business Investment Companies (SBIC's) to the lesser of 300% of the capital investment or \$150 million, and requires that at least 50% of ventures capital be invested in low-income areas (under the New Market Ventures Capital definition). Lastly, the Recovery Act provides below market interest rate loans to "Systemically Important Secondary Broker-Dealers (SISBD's) to purchase the SBA-guaranteed part of loans. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 4213, Senate Vote 48, 3/10/2010]

Senator Reid Stands by Nevada's Workforce. In addition fighting to create jobs in Nevada, Senator Reid has helped Nevadans weather the economic storm by extending and increasing unemployment insurance. He also led the effort to give women equal pay for equal work and fought to support vital job training programs.

- Senator Reid Helped to Secure and Improve Federal Unemployment Benefits. Senator Reid continues to fight for out-of-work Nevadans to make sure they have the unemployment benefits they need to provide for their families as they look for work. In addition to helping those who are out of work through no fault of their own, providing unemployment benefits is one of the most cost effective ways to stimulate the economy. At the beginning of this most recent economic downturn Senator Reid pushed to provide to federal unemployment benefits. When the economic downturn proved to be worse than expected and unemployed workers were having difficulty finding employment, Senator Reid fought to increase weekly benefits by \$25, provide longer benefits for high unemployment states such as Nevada and continue the program while the economy begins to recover. [H.R. 264, Senate Vote 162, 06/26/08, P.L. 110-252; H.R. 6867, Voice Vote, 11/20/08, P.L. 110-449; H.R. 1Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/04/09, P.L. 111-92; H.R. 3326, Senate Vote 384, 12/19/09, P.L. 111-118; H.R. 4691, Senate Vote 32, 03/02/10, P.L. 111-144; H.R. 4851, Senate Vote 117, 04/15/10, P.L. 111-157]
- Senator Reid Led the Effort to Give Women Equal Pay for Equal Work. Senator Reid led the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in the Senate. This legislation restores civil rights protections for workers who face discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. This landmark legislation expands workers' rights to sue in response to discriminatory practices in the workplace. According to the New York Times, President Obama hailed the effort as a "clear message that making our economy work means making sure it works for everybody." After having worked on the bill despite resistance from an unsupportive Bush Administration, Senator Reid made passage a priority in 2009, clearing the Fair Pay Act for White House approval just one week after President Obama took office. [S. 181, Senate Vote 14, 1/22/09, P.L. 111-002; New York Times, 1/29/09]
- Senator Reid Provided Funding for Vital Job Training Programs Through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Always putting Nevada workers first, Senator Reid has worked tirelessly to bring federal funding back to the state for a wide variety of job training investments that directly benefit Nevada's workforce. WIA is the nation's chief vehicle for job training funding and programming and Senator Reid has been supportive of WIA programs since the legislation first passed the Senate in 1998. Recently, Senator Reid championed the Recovery Act, which made an unprecedented commitment to empowering Nevada workers by providing critical funding for job training and education. These funds make many youth, employment, and training activities possible. For example, the Recovery Act allocated more than \$7 million to WIA Youth Activities, which provides low-income youth

assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment. WIA Adult Activities received more than \$3 million to help individuals with their career goals by increasing job readiness, educational attainment, and occupational skills. The Recovery Act also allocated more than \$14 million to WIA Dislocated Workers, which helped to quickly re-employ laid-off workers to enhance their competitiveness in the workplace and earnings by increasing occupational skills. The Wagner-Peyser Employment Service received more than \$3 million to enhance their services which are designed to help both employed and unemployed workers obtain jobs and give employers access to skilled workers. [H.R. 1385, Senate Vote 119, 5/5/98, P.L. 105-220; H.J.Res. 2, Senate Vote 34, 02/13/03, P.L. 108-007; H.Con.Res. 95, Senate Vote 134,

[H.R. 1385, Senate Vote 119, 5/5/98, P.L. 105-220; H.J.Res. 2, Senate Vote 34, 02/13/03, P.L. 108-007; H.Con.Res. 95, Senate Vote 134, 04/11/03; H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 3, 01/22/04, P.L. 108-199; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Make Our Nation More Competitive in the Global Market. We must ensure that Nevada and the nation's students and teachers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology. In an effort to make our nation more competitive in the global market, Senator Reid helped lead passage of the *America COMPETES Act*. This legislation developed an infrastructure that will enhance innovation and competitiveness in the United States by increasing research investment and strengthening educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from elementary through graduate school. [S.761, Senate Vote 146, 4/25/07, P.L. 110-069]